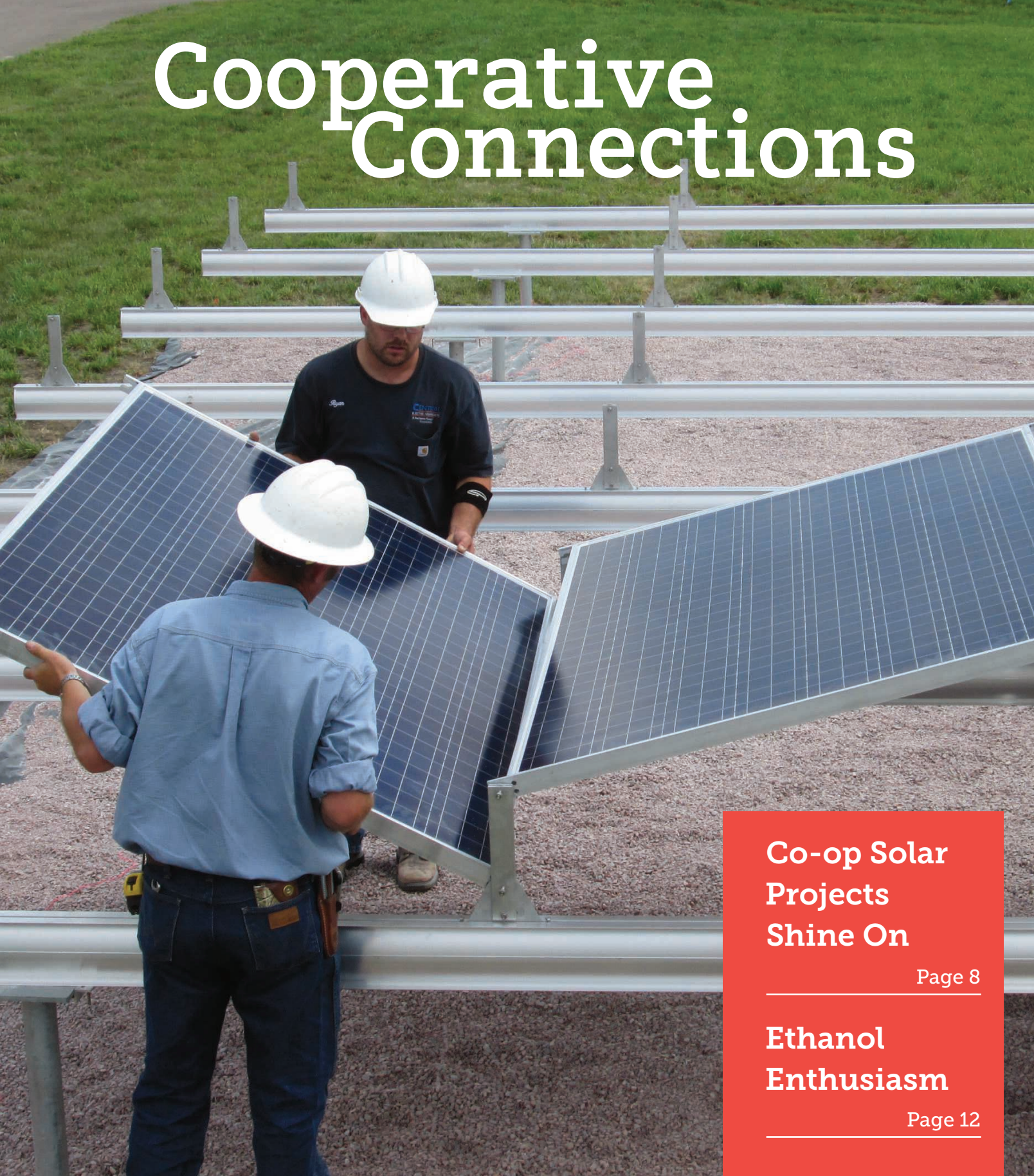




Cooperative Connections



**Co-op Solar
Projects
Shine On**

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Enthusiasm**

Page 12

Why doesn't SVE bury all of its lines underground?

Your Question Answered



Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO

tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com

The latest cost estimates for damages on the SVE electric system caused by Winter Storm Wesley will exceed \$8-million. That's a lot of damage! During the storm and its aftermath, we had a lot of questions from members about why Sioux Valley Energy doesn't bury all the electric lines to avoid major storm outages such as the ones we just experienced. You may remember that during one of my video updates on Facebook during the storm, I said we would address the underground vs. overhead issue in a Vlog post on our website—well it's up and running and we hope you will consider watching it at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. But for those of you who don't follow social media, I thought I would provide you with the same information here in the magazine regarding overhead and underground electric facilities.

Approximately 60 percent of our more than 6,000 miles of electric lines are underground which leaves 40 percent overhead. Sioux Valley Energy plans to keep those percentages about the same. The first reason is because of cost. Last year we constructed approximately 110 miles of line. Of those 110 miles, more than half (60 miles) were three-phase overhead construction using large wire. Those 60 miles cost around \$7-million. If we had used the equivalent underground cable, the cost would have exceeded \$16-million...an almost \$10-million dollar increase. That's a big cost differential.

We would also have significant operational problems if the Sioux Valley Energy electric system was all underground because a phenomenon called voltage rise. Voltage rise occurs due to lightly-loaded underground lines. There are many areas in this country where an all-underground system can work because it's in a densely populated area and the lines are heavily-loaded. When lines are lightly loaded in an all-underground system, the voltage levels at the end of the line can rise higher than at the beginning of the line—potentially causing damage to co-op or consumer equipment. This is an issue within the Sioux Valley Energy service territory because we serve an average of four members per mile of line and in our more rural areas we serve only two members per mile of line. The result of this is lines that have little electric load on them, in other words, lightly-loaded lines. To fix that issue Sioux Valley Energy would need to add more specialized equipment (regulators and reactors) to control the voltage rise, which would increase the cost even more.

There is also a misnomer that underground lines are more reliable. While they do avoid buildup of ice during storm events, there are still plenty of issues when it comes to potential outages. Underground lines can be hit by contractors when digging, they are susceptible to animals and sometimes they just fail. When there is an outage on an underground line, it often takes longer to fix because the issue is not always visible as it is with an overhead line.

Sioux Valley has changed its new overhead construction standards to specifications that should stand up to ice storms much better. The new "bulkier" or more storm-hardened materials and construction methods worked well in Winter Storm Wesley. We had approximately 150 miles of line that had been constructed with the new standards located in the heart of the storm area—we lost only four poles. The larger wire and poles, shorter spans, etc. worked well even under some of the worst conditions.

Finally, overhead lines will often last much longer than underground cable. Some of the electric system that went down in the storm was 80 years old! That overhead system lasted 80 years and I can guarantee that this was not the first ice storm to hit those areas. Underground cable is expected to last only half that long—so it would need to be replaced much more frequently, adding to the cost.

Each year we spend approximately \$20-million on our construction work plan. That is a significant investment which does impact rates. It's an aggressive plan, but we also know that our members expect and value reliability. If we continued our replacement plan at the same level we have been (approximately 125 miles a year) and used only underground, the yearly construction budget would skyrocket to \$35 or \$40-million and that is not sustainable from a rate perspective.

In closing, you may be asking how we decide where to place underground vs. overhead. Our engineers do a complete analysis to determine where it makes most sense to place a specific type of line. They analyze cost, operational issues, density and accessibility.

I hope my column this month helps answer a few questions you may have had on overhead vs. underground lines. Again, we will have our Vlog post about this subject posted on our website at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. Stay safe and we hope to see you at all our upcoming events!

Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Annual Ag Appreciation Day Sioux Empire Fair Wednesday, August 7, 2019



Where: Sioux Empire Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Admission: Free with complimentary ticket*

Complimentary Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sponsors: Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and area businesses

Contact: Sioux Valley Energy at 1-800-234-1960

**Members can request tickets by calling Sioux Valley Energy at 1-800-234-1960 or by stopping by one of the three service centers in Colman, Pipestone or Brandon.*

Electrical Safety During Disasters

Electricity drives the modern world and we often take it for granted. And if a natural disaster occurs, there's a few things to remember to stay electrically safe during the storm.

- Before the storm hits, make sure to charge all phones and other communication devices. Then, unplug all electronics and move them as high as possible to avoid water damage from flooding.
- Turn off the main power breaker feeding the home to prevent any surges to the wiring and equipment.
- After the storm blows through, and you begin to evaluate the aftermath, it's important to avoid flooded areas as they may be electrified.
- Do not use any electrical equipment or electronics if they've been submerged.
- If flooding has occurred, have the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrical inspector.
- If you're using a generator, ensure a qualified electrician installed it and make sure to use a listed and approved transfer switch and GFCI protection.
- It's a good idea to protect your home with carbon monoxide detectors.
- When venturing outside, be very alert of your surroundings. If you encounter a fallen power line, stay at least 35 feet away. Avoid touching any objects the line may be laying on such as a fence, a car, or a light pole as the object could be energized.
- If others are around, alert them to stay away and call 911.

While storms can be devastating to a community, the aftermath can be challenging. However, could be an opportunity to renovate and upgrade your main power source with renewable energy such as solar.

Floodwaters and heavy winds aren't the only hazards during a storm. That's why it's important to treat electricity with extreme caution.

Source: esfi.org

Come visit your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives at one of these events!

MINNESOTA

FARMFEST®

Aug. 6-7
Gilfillan Estate
28269 MN-67
Morgan, MN

Aug. 20-22

2300 E Spruce St.
Mitchell, SD

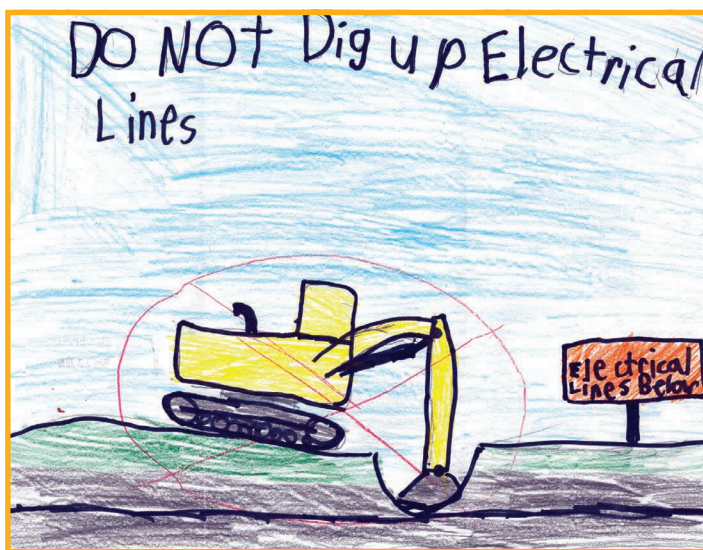
DAKOTAFEST®



Aug. 29-Sept. 2
1060 Third St. SW, Huron, SD

We'll see you there!

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Do not dig up electrical lines."

Luke Kangas, 9 years old

Luke is the son of Andrew and Gail Kangas, Lake Norden, S.D.
They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.



Very Vegetarian

Southwest Brunch Casserole

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2 T. oil | 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 6 eggs |
| 1 red bell pepper, chopped | 2 cups milk |
| 1 (8 oz.) loaf Italian bread, cut into 1-inch cubes (5 cups) | 1 tsp. chili powder |
| 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed | 2 tsp. ground oregano |
| 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese | 1 tsp. ground cumin |
| | 1 tsp. salt |

Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Add onion and bell pepper; cook and stir 3 minutes or until softened. Spread 1/2 of the bread cubes in 13x9-inch baking dish. Layer with 1/2 each of the onion mixture, beans, Cheddar cheese and Monterey Jack cheese. Repeat layers. Beat eggs in medium bowl until foamy. Add milk, chili powder, oregano, cumin and salt; beat until well blended. Pour evenly over top. Press bread cubes lightly into egg mixture until completely covered. Let stand 10 minutes. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 50 minutes or until center is set and top is golden brown. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 275, Total Fat 15g, Sodium 633mg, Cholesterol 121mg, Carbohydrates 21g, Protein 14g, Fiber 3g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Black Bean Burgers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 (15 oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained | 2 T. seeded, minced jalapeno pepper (or pepper of choice) |
| 1-3/4 cups diced onion | 3/4 tsp. salt |
| 1-1/2 cups uncooked regular oats | 2 large eggs, lightly beaten |
| 3/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro | 1/4 cup all-purpose flour |
| | 1/4 cup cornmeal |

In a large bowl, coarsely mash beans with a fork. Add next 6 ingredients; stir well. Shape into 8 patties. Combine flour and cornmeal in a pie plate; stir well. Dredge patties in mixture. Cook patties in a small amount of oil over medium-high heat until lightly browned – about 5 minutes on each side.

Darcy Bracken, Hermosa, SD

Baked Pineapple

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 cup sugar | 2 cups grated Cheddar cheese |
| 6 T. flour | 1 stick butter, melted |
| 5 T. pineapple juice | 1/2 cup cornflake crumbs |
| 2 cans pineapple tidbits, drain, reserving juice | |

Mix together sugar, flour and pineapple juice. Add pineapple and cheese. Place in a greased casserole dish. Combine butter and cornflake crumbs; sprinkle over all. Bake at 350°F. until brown and bubbly. Serve hot or cold.

Verna Nelson, Wakonda, SD

Bean 'n' Butter Bread

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans | 1 egg, beaten |
| 1/3 vegetable oil | 1 cup hot water |
| 1/3 cup peanut butter | 3 pkgs. yeast |
| 1/3 cup molasses | 4 cups all-purpose flour |
| 3 T. sugar | 1 cup whole wheat flour |
| 1 tsp. salt | Egg white |

Place first 7 ingredients in blender; blend until smooth. Pour into large mixing bowl. Stir in hot water. Combine yeast and 4 cups flour. Add to bean mixture, mixing well. Add wheat flour. Work in to form a stiff dough. Let rise 1-1/2 hours. Punch down and let rise 15 minutes. Shape into 2 loaves, placing on a greased cookie sheet. Mix egg white with 2 T. water for egg wash. Brush on loaves. Make 1/8-inch slash every 2-1/2 inches apart. Bake at 350°F. for 55 minutes. You may use crunchy peanut butter or add sunflower seeds.

Anne Burlison, Lead, SD

Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta and slow cooker recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Enter this quarter's contest for a chance to win an energy audit and weatherization improvements!

QUARTERLY CHALLENGE TO SAVE MONEY AND WIN BIG!

You Could be a Winner!

Watch for our quarterly Energy Makeover Contest to have chances to win valuable prizes to enhance efficiency and conservation efforts in your home or business. Learn how little changes can help you save big!

Is your home cold in the winter and hot in the summer? Enter for a chance to win this quarter's Energy Makeover Contest and let us help you discover and fix the air leaks in your home.

The winner will receive a comprehensive energy audit that includes infrared thermal imaging and blower door test valued at \$250. In addition, the winner will receive up to \$1,000 towards recommended insulation/air sealing measures coordinated through the energy auditor or a contractor of your choice.

Please complete the entry below and mail to Sioux Valley Energy, Energy Makeover Contest, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. The entry is also available online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. One entry per member. *Entries must be received by September 30, 2019. (The winner will receive a comprehensive energy audit by SVE's third-party provider. The winner must provide an estimate/invoice for the recommended insulation/air sealing measures coordinated through our energy auditor or a contractor of your choice. A check will be issued to the contractor up to \$1,000 (not to exceed the cost of the project.) Work must be completed by December 31, 2019.*

CHALLENGE - THIRD QUARTER

SEAL UP THE SAVINGS MAKEOVER

Heating and cooling needs vary by season, but the same tactics apply. A tightly sealed home keeps the air you heat or cool inside, and the outdoor air outside. Sealing and insulating your home can reduce your heating and cooling bills as much as 30% according to the US Department of Energy. Sealing and insulating offers improved comfort, better humidity control, reduced outside noise, along with less pollen, dust and insects. Contact the Energy Services Department for more information on energy audits and the weatherization rebate program.

Seal Up the Savings Makeover Contest!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

I would like more information on:

Heat Pump Rebate Electric Heat Rebate Marathon/Westinghouse Water Heaters Energy Audit

Weatherization Program Electric Vehicle Program Time of Use Rate SmartHub Program Yard Light Rebate

Commercial/Ag LED Program Irrigation Rebate Renewable Energy Credit Energy Saving Tips

Ugly Fridge Contest Winner Announced

Madison SVE Member Wins

During the second quarter 'Energy Makeover' contest, Sioux Valley Energy asked members to submit a photo of their 'ugly fridge'. The ugliest fridge owner would receive up to \$2,200 towards the purchase of a new Energy Star rated refrigerator.

The 'Ugly Fridge' contest winner was announced at the Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting in Pipestone on June 4th. The lucky winner was Jarret Lee of Madison.

Pictured to the right is Sheila Gross, Energy Services Specialist and Jarret Lee of Madison.

You can find the latest Energy Makeover contest online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com.



**CALL OR
CLICK
BEFORE
YOU DIG**

Call 811 or visit call811.com at least two to three business days before you start digging. Professional locators will mark underground utility lines so you can work safely—and save you from possible injury or property damage.

Together we're
RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY



SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Get the Inside "Scoop"
on Energy Savings

and enjoy Sundaes  on a Sunday

Sunday, July 28 (2-4 p.m. - open house)
SVE Brandon Service Center

108 N. Heritage Rd. Brandon, SD 57005

Put the power of energy savings in your hands and learn about Sioux Valley Energy's programs designed to help you become more efficient and save money!

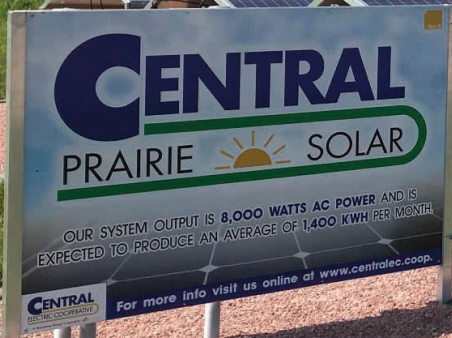
- **Time of Use Rate**
- **Smart Hub App**
- **Electric Vehicle Program**
- **SVE Rebates and Incentives**

Kids Enjoy the
ZooMobile!



Enjoy B&G
Milkyway Ice
Cream

Family Friendly Event! Members have the chance to win a \$100 bill credit.



Central Electric's Prairie Solar project can be seen in front of the co-op's office along Betts Road west of Mitchell, S.D. On the Cover: Central Electric employees install the Prairie Solar project in 2015.

BRIGHT LESSONS

Co-op Solar Projects Help Educate, Inform

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Co-op members across the area are able to get firsthand information about solar energy straight from their electric cooperatives.

“There were a number of vendors in the region promoting various technologies. We wanted to provide accurate, real-time information to our members. Our role as a trusted energy expert made us want to educate ourselves on behalf of the members,” said Brian Jeremiason, manager of marketing and external relations at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn.

So, in late December 2015, Lyon-Lincoln Electric installed its 8.4 kW AC solar system. The small project was designed to match a typical residential load for the southwestern Minnesota cooperative. The project consists of 28, 400 watt panels, each measuring 52.5 inches by 78 inches. The entire array measures 45.5 feet by 28 feet.

“It’s provided information about expected production versus actual production,” said Jeremiason, who noted that actual production for the system’s first three years has been “about 80 percent of what our vendor projected.”

Aside from a few inverters that failed within the system’s first two years, Jeremiason said the system has been mostly maintenance free.

An important lesson learned for the co-op was that companies in the industry tend to go out of business overnight.

“Overall, while the financial payback is long, it’s been a benefit to the cooperative members as an educational tool,” said Jeremiason.

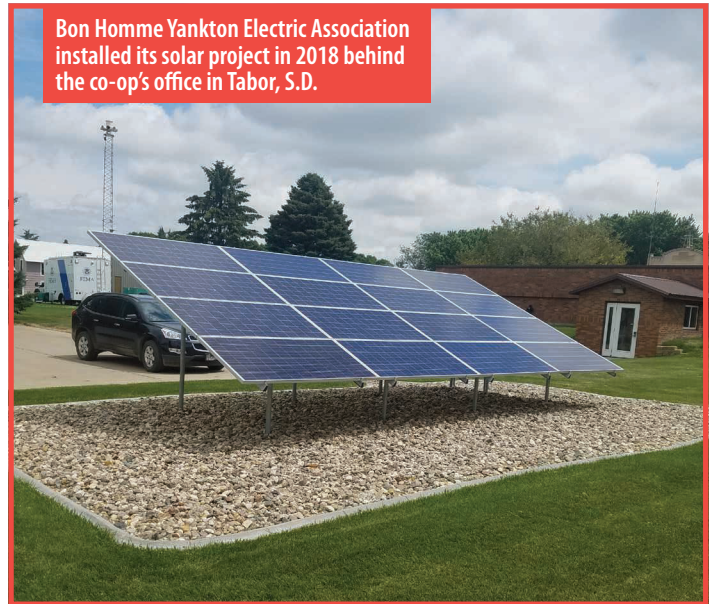


Photo by Bob Felber/Bon Homme-Yankton Electric

Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., also installed a solar project in 2015 to learn firsthand how to plan and construct such a project and also how well it would perform in the area around Mitchell.

Similar to Lyon-Lincoln’s experience, the vendor the co-op used went out of business shortly after installation.

Fortunately, there has been little maintenance or upkeep needed for the system.

“The solar industry is still in its infancy and experiencing growth and change,” said Central Electric General Manager Ken Schlimgen. “As a result, the names in the industry come and go and the solar equipment you see today will be obsolete in a few years.”

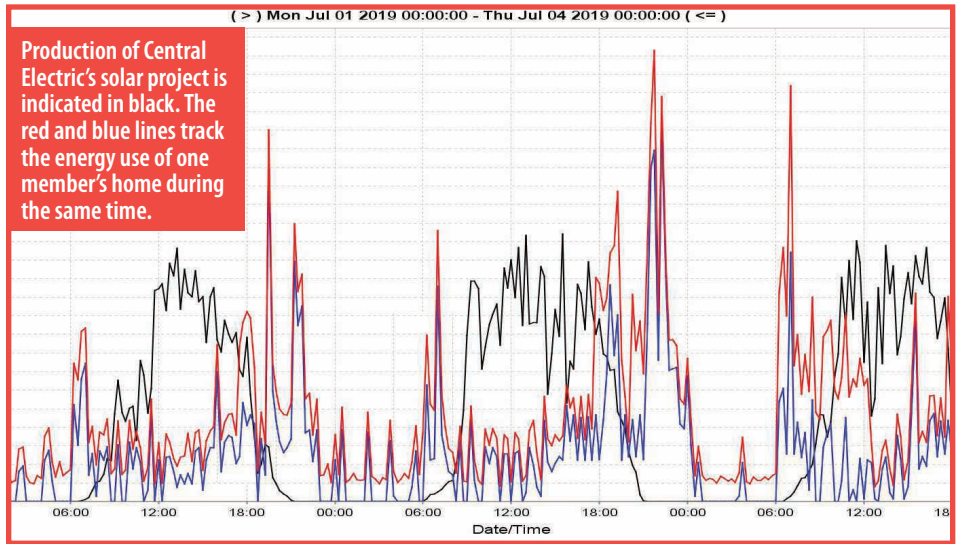
One lesson the co-op learned was to double check with building requirements in your county. The ground-mounted system they installed required a Davison County building permit.

A second lesson learned was the impact of cloud cover on the system.

“Any type of cloud cover reduces the kilowatt hour production of the system,” said Schlimgen.

“I believe the project has helped our employees better understand the equipment used in solar projects. We can also compare the production of our solar project and overlay that information onto a members actual consumption. This allows the member to better understand when a solar system would be offsetting their purchases and when they would still need to make purchases of electricity. Our solar project also helps to provide sizing information to members who are asking questions about installing solar,” said Schlimgen.

Central Electric’s Manager of Marketing and Member Services Patrick Soukup noted, “One of the biggest lessons that I had to learn is about time of use versus time of production. Once we overlaid the graphs together, it’s apparent how



solar works in our typical day and how important sizing the system to your needs would be.”

While the co-op invested more than \$32,000 in the system, the returns on the investment from an educational perspective have been worthwhile.

“The investment we had and the data collected is just priceless,” Soukup said.

Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, S.D., has the largest of the solar demonstration projects installed at its Brandon, S.D., service center. The cooperative constructed its 24.8-kilowatt project in April 2015 and had it operational by May 1 of that year. The project’s 80 panels were faced south, southwest and west, which allowed the co-op to examine how the orientations affected production.

“The output is very close to what was

planned. The difference in the output from facing the panels three different directions has allowed us to learn about which orientation will better match up with a member’s usage patterns. The project was fairly easy to assemble,” said Ted Smith, Sioux Valley Energy’s director of engineering and operations.

The entire array was installed for about \$3 per watt. In the project’s first four years, it produced 126,201 kilowatt hours, with a projected payback of 16 to 20 years. (The estimated life of the array is between 30 and 50 years.)

The new kid on the co-op solar block is Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association in Tabor, S.D, which installed its 5kw system in July 2018. The co-op publishes the project’s output each month in their magazine.



Solar panels at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn., have helped the co-op answer members’ questions about the resource.

Photo by Brian Jeremiason/Lyon-Lincoln Electric

Photo by Central Electric

Join Sioux Valley Energy at the first annual Safety Day!

Saturday, August 10 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at the **SVE Brandon Service Center**

Location of event is: 108 N. Heritage Rd. Brandon, SD 57005



Pancake feed!

Enjoy a pancake breakfast, brunch or lunch on Sioux Valley Energy.



Interactive Safety Demos!

Hands-on displays for all ages courtesy of Sioux Valley Energy, Brandon Fire and Police Departments, SD Highway Patrol and the SD Farmers Union.



Kids Games and a Chance to win a Bike!

Kids can win prizes playing carnival games, build an electrical circuit, and have a chance to win a bike with safety gear.



Health Checks for Adults!

Get your blood pressure checked and learn about the signs of stroke.



Color Run/Walk! Take part in the 1st annual **Co-op Color Run/Walk** at McHardy Park in Brandon. Details and Registration online at: <https://www.allsportcentral.com/EventInfo.cfm?EventID=70782>





Sioux Valley Energy Co-op Color 5K Run/Walk

August 10 - McHardy Park - Brandon, SD

- \$30 Single Entrance Fee - Sign up by July 20 for a **Free T-shirt!**
- Kids 17 and under free (no t-shirt). Register kids the day of the race.
- **Raise money** for the SD Rural Electric Line Patrol Charity which supports electric co-op employees facing catastrophic illness or injury!
- Registration starts at 7:15 a.m. and Race starts at 8 a.m.
- **Prizes** for best costume & individuals that raise the most money!
- After the race, join us at the SVE service center to refuel with a **pancake feed!**

To Register Online:

<https://www.allsportcentral.com/EventInfo.cfm?EventID=70782>

Or send the registration form below along with your \$30 entrance fee payable to Sioux Valley Energy:

Sioux Valley Energy (Co-op Color Run) P.O. Box 216, Colman, SD 57017

SVE Co-op Color Run Registration

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____
 Email: _____ Gender (circle one): M F Birthdate: _____

I have enclosed my \$30 entrance fee. I agree to sign a waiver at the race.

Ethanol in South Dakota

Courtney Deinert

cdeinert@centralec.coop

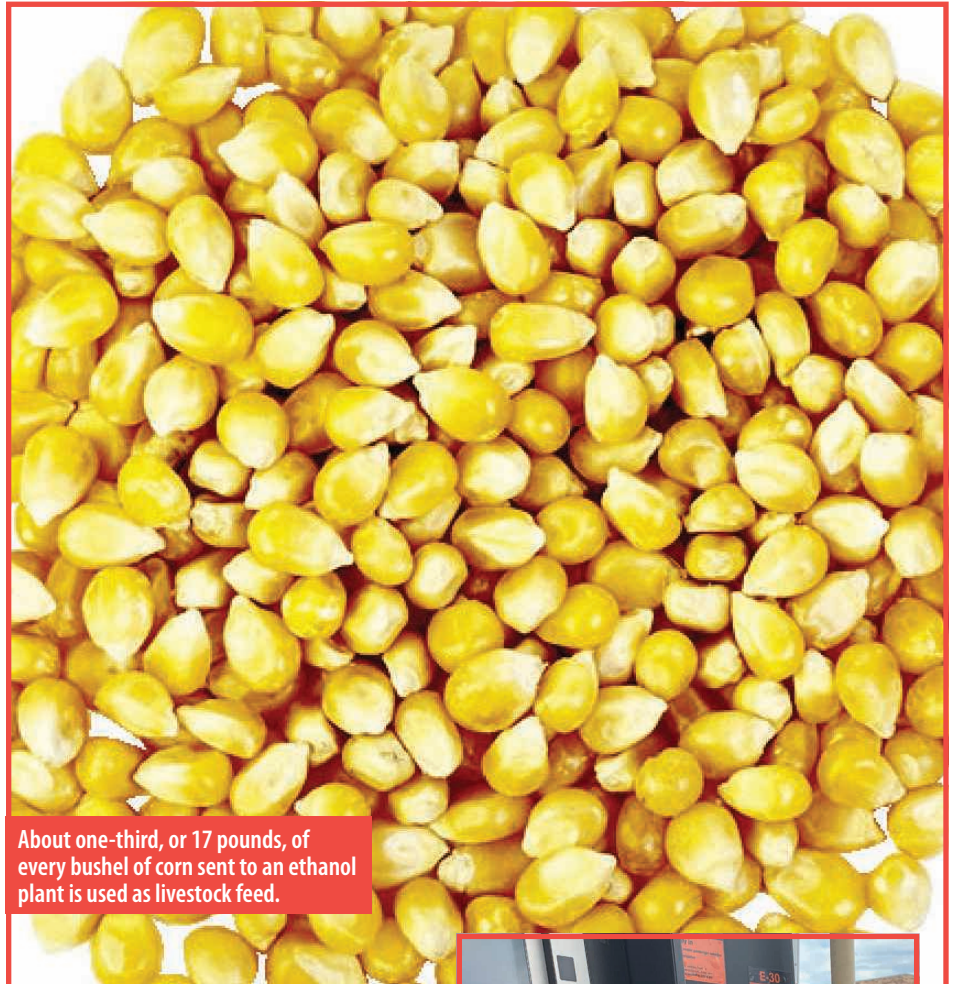
Ethanol production continues to increase with a new large facility added every other year or so.

The ethanol industry in South Dakota began a little more than 30 years ago when Jeff Broin and his family purchased a foreclosed ethanol plant in 1988 near Scotland, S.D.

The Broin family had been distilling ethanol as a way to make a little extra money on the farm after the 1970s, when corn production cost more than producers could sell it for. By purchasing the plant, the family had an opportunity to expand their process. This initial plant near Scotland became the pilot for POET Biorefining and is currently one of 15 operating plants in the state.

Last year, South Dakota ranked 6th nationally in ethanol production capacity and provided 7 percent of the nation's total ethanol production.

Rural South Dakotans know that in addition to providing an alternative fuel source, ethanol provides an additional market for corn producers. From 2002 to 2012, gross corn use for ethanol production increased from less than 10 percent to more than 40 percent (and the production process does kick back distiller grain to alleviate the need for corn and soybean meal for livestock). The same study claims for every 10 percent increase in ethanol production (or 1 billion gallons), average



About one-third, or 17 pounds, of every bushel of corn sent to an ethanol plant is used as livestock feed.

long-run corn prices increase by 2 percent to 3 percent (based on production from 2008-2013).

Impact on Electric Cooperatives

Ethanol has also impacted local electric cooperatives. East River Electric Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Madison, S.D., includes a number of ethanol plants located within its system, and more than 11 percent of East River kilowatt hour (kWh) sales go to large ethanol production plants.

“Ethanol production continues to increase – with a new large facility added every other year or so over the last 15 years,” says Michael Volker, manager of rates and treasury at East



Blender pumps at South Dakota gas stations offer drivers a variety of choices of ethanol blends.

Ethanol Plants in South Dakota

Company	City	Production Capacity MGY (million gallons/year)	Operating Production	Under Expansion MGY (million gallons/year)
ABE South Dakota LLC	Aberdeen	53	53	
ABE South Dakota LLC	Huron	32	32	
Dakota Ethanol LLC	Wentworth	48	48	
Glacial Lakes Energy LLC	Mina	100	100	
Glacial Lakes Energy LLC	Watertown	120	120	
NuGen Energy LLC	Marion	130	130	
POET Biorefining – Big Stone LLC	Big Stone City	79	79	
POET Biorefining – Chancellor LLC	Chancellor	110	110	
POET Biorefining – Groton LLC	Groton	53	53	
POET Biorefining – Hudson LLC	Hudson	56	56	
POET Biorefining – Mitchell LLC	Mitchell	68	68	
POET Research Center	Scotland	11	11	
Red River Energy LLC	Rosholt	25	25	
Redfield Energy LLC	Redfield	60	60	
Ringneck Energy & Feed LLC	Onida	-	-	80
Valero Renewable Fuels Co. LLC	Aurora	135	135	

River. Currently, there are new plants being constructed near Onida and Yankton, S.D.

The plants specifically served by East River and its member cooperatives can produce more than 500 million gallons of ethanol per year and consume approximately 200 million bushels of locally grown corn.

Flex Fuels

South Dakota is a national leader in its use of ethanol in the state vehicle fleet. In 2017, South Dakota ranked third nationally in the gallons of E85 consumed by state fleet (behind No. 1 Texas and No. 2 Maryland).

Of the state fleet, approximately 65 percent use a blend of ethanol, from E15 to E85. In early 2019, Gov. Kristi Noem announced her intent to transition the state fleet to E30.

For the public, there are 87 stations in South Dakota that offer E85 (ethanol-gasoline blends containing 51 percent to 83 percent ethanol). Of the stations, 41 include some mid-level blend such as E15 or E30.

While E85 can only be used in flex fuel vehicles (FFVs), the EPA approved the use of E15 (gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol) in model year 2001 and newer cars, light-duty trucks, medium-duty passenger vehicles (SUVs) and all FFVs. This includes approximately nine out of 10 of the vehicles on the road today.

On May 31, 2019, the EPA signed into action the rule allowing E15 to be sold

year-round, including the summer months and peak driving season, rather than eight months out of the year.

“For the ethanol industry and farmers, this means greater market access – more ethanol demand over the long term as additional retailers begin offering E15,” Brian Jennings, CEO of the American Coalition for Ethanol, responded after the EPA announcement.

Consumers will also see E15 marketed as “Unleaded 88” at the gas pumps.

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Byproducts

According to ACE, about one third, or 17 pounds, of every bushel of corn sent to an ethanol plant is used as livestock feed. The kernels of corn are made of starch, protein and fiber. The protein stays in the food supply in the form of a high-quality feed called DDGS (Dry Distillers Grains with Solubles.) The concentrated corn protein is a high-value feed product for cattle, hogs and poultry. The ethanol production process uses only the corn’s starch (carbohydrates.)

Generator Safety

How to Connect a Generator



Greg Brooks, Walton EMC

The peace of mind a standby electric generator brings to your home, farm or business is big. It's nice to have a backup plan to keep things running through unpredictable weather and occasional outages. But with big peace of mind comes big responsibility.

TELL US. First things first, let us know if you're installing a generator. Call Sioux Valley Energy at 800-234-1960 to notify us. It's important that we update your account and are aware of all generators in the area. This keeps our linemen safe during outages. So, please, let us know!

DANGERS OF BACKFEEDING. The generator must be properly installed, by a licensed electrician, using a transfer switch. A connection without the correct type of switch

can cause backfeed on the utility system. A backfeed creates a dangerous situation, which can be deadly to you and/or linemen. When backfeed enters a power line from a generator it can create an energized line. If a lineman expects the line to be de-energized due to an outage situation, but it's not de-energized because of your generator, it could create a life-threatening situation.

BE AWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE. Generators must never be operated in enclosed buildings. Be sure your generator is vented and has enough air to be safe. Carbon monoxide emissions can build up quickly and can be deadly.

FUEL SAFETY. Whether propane, gasoline or diesel, be sure generator fuel is stored correctly in approved containers. Never refuel while the generator is running or still hot.

DISCONNECT FROM MAIN SOURCE. Always power down and disconnect from your utility service, using an approved transfer switch, before starting your backup generator.

GIVE IT A BREAK. Manage the use of your generator during outages to save on fuel. It helps you be more energy efficient and keeps your generator in good running order. If the power is out for an extended period of time, use the generator to run the refrigerator every few hours so it stays cool enough for food without taking up constant energy. Giving the generator breaks is important. Most portable generators are not equipped to run around the clock. Be sure to shut it down and let it cool off.

Awareness doesn't spread as fast as an electrical current, but a little goes a long way. Remember to look up.

RE-ENERGIZING FARM SAFETY

Operation Round Up

\$1.7-Million Donated

The circle of giving—you give and you receive. That is the philosophy behind Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Round Up (ORU) program.

Since the year 2000, members and employees have awarded more than \$1.7-Million to worthwhile causes throughout the Cooperative's service territory. The concept is easy, participating members agree to have their electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar and that money is collected for ORU. Many Sioux Valley Energy employees also help by deducting a small amount from their paychecks. Nearly 75 percent of our members and employees participate in the program.

A recent ORU award recipient, Tri-Valley School, used the donation to purchase a treadmill that will be used by students who receive special services at the school. Those students will be able to access the treadmill for physical therapy and movement breaks during the school day. Kate Haar, Special Education Director for Tri-Valley, says the treadmills are helpful for students with disabilities.

“Treadmills have been used in therapy for students to improve their walking pattern including strength, balance, symmetry in step taking, walking speed and endurance. Students will be able to walk about their busy educational environment with less difficulty and less energy expenditure. Also treadmills provide students with disabilities an opportunity to improve their fitness level as they go through their middle and high school years.



The ORU Board of Directors recently approved \$31,000 in funding for local non-profits and communities at its latest quarterly meeting. The ORU Board meets quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Applications must be received by the 20th of the month preceding the board meeting. For example, in order to be considered at the December meeting, your application must be received no later than November 20th.

Sioux Valley Energy members--Greg Benda, Joyce DeClerk, Ann Vostad, Jeff Thompson, Jennifer Stratton, Alvina Harvey and Connie Hillard serve on the Operation Round Up Board of Directors.

If your community, school or organization would like to apply for Operation Round Up, an application can be found at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com, under the 'My Community' tab.

May 26-End of Summer

Brookings County Museum and its new and unique Trygve Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum, 1 to 4 p.m. daily, Volga, SD

July 19-21

Quartzsiter Days, City of Jasper, Jasper, MN, 507-348-3701, www.cityofjaspermn.com

July 20

Jason Brown Concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

July 20

Fifth Annual Woofstock Car/Bike Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Main Street, Registration 9 to 11 a.m., Car registration fee \$15/each additional vehicle \$10, Bike registration fee \$10/each additional bike \$5, Peoples Choice Awards at 3 p.m., Free to the public, Lennox, SD, 605-940-4140

July 20-21

JazzFest, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

July 26-27

Senior Games, Brookings, SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at 605-692-4492

July 28

Sundaes on a Sunday, Get the inside scoop on energy savings, Service Center, Brandon, SD, 1-800-234-1960

August 3

Brookings Area Quilters Guild Bloomin' Quilt Party at the Barn, Quilt displays, refreshments, boutique, raffle quilt, musical entertainment, Noon to 5 p.m., Bennett Barn, 47435 214th St, Aurora, 605-690-3246



Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

August 4

26th Annual Madison Car Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

August 9-11

Potato Days, Bring your lawn chairs, No dogs in park please, Oldham, SD

August 10

Co-op Color 5K Run/Walk, McHardy Park, Brandon, SD, 1-800-234-1960

August 10

Safety Day, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Service Center, Brandon, SD, 1-800-234-1960

August 10

10th Annual Camaro Fun Days, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Pioneer Park, Parade Line Up 9 a.m., Cruise 3 p.m., Entry Fee: 4 cans of food for Food Pantry, Brookings, SD, Contact Terry 605-695-1560 or Calvin 605-690-1057

August 17

Christian Concert, Turkey Creek Revival Band, Faith Lutheran Church, 5:30 p.m., Free admission, Meal will be provided, Humboldt, SD, 605-363-3700

August 17

Christian Music Concert, Presented by: Fields of Grace, 1:30 p.m., (Gates open at 1 p.m.), Baseball Field, Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, sit back and enjoy the day, Arlington, SD

August 22-25

57th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring the JI Case Collectors' Summer Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

August 24

McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Rodeo, Leo P. Flynn Memorial Arena, McCrossan Boys Ranch Campus, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-1203

September 2

Closing Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.